



TREASURE

OUR *ohio*

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

miles of coastline
312

coastal population in 2000
2,767,328

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding
\$2,000,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding
\$182,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation
\$111,000

fy03 national estuarine research
reserve operations, education,
monitoring and stewardship
\$465,000



HIO'S COASTAL ZONE CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY: TOURISM AND OUTDOOR RECREATION BRING IN AN ESTIMATED \$2.5 BILLION PER YEAR IN TRAVEL REVENUE; NINE LAKE ERIE PORTS EXPORT NEARLY \$18 BILLION IN CARGO ANNUALLY; COASTAL AGRICULTURE GENERATES \$175 MILLION FOR THE STATE; AND NEARLY 140,000 OHIO BOATERS USE LAKE ERIE AS THEIR PRIMARY BOATING LOCATION WITH AN ESTIMATED 1 MILLION OHIOANS BOATING ON LAKE ERIE EVERY YEAR. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF THESE VALUABLE COASTAL AREAS. THE LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

THE CZMA IN OHIO

The CZMA establishes two programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects key coastal areas for long-term scientific study, education, and resource stewardship.

Ohio Coastal Management Program

Approved: 1997

Lead Agency: Department of Natural Resources

The Ohio Coastal Management Program is designed to integrate management of Ohio's Lake Erie coastal area in order to preserve, protect, develop, restore, and enhance its valuable and sometimes vulnerable resources. Managing activities in erosion prone areas and restoring and enhancing coastal wetlands are the major challenges facing the Ohio coast. The program provides a framework to guide public and private activities in the coastal area.



Accomplishments of the Ohio Coastal Management Program include:

- *providing \$4.489 million in Great Lakes Coastal Restoration grant funding for projects protecting more than 240 acres of wetlands, floodplains and riparian corridors throughout the Lake Erie watershed, a benefit to local communities directly and the state in general;*
- *developing a Coastal Training Institute in partnership with Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve and Ohio Sea Grant;*
- *providing funding to the Chagrin River Watershed Partners to develop comprehensive wetlands trends analysis and adapt watershed protection tools for communities in the watershed;*
- *conducting training workshops on the public trust doctrine for state and local officials that described the role of the state as trustee for the public of navigable waters and, in the case of Lake Erie, the submerged lands and their contents;*
- *initiating development of a Special Area Management Plan in the Mentor Marsh watershed and surrounding communities and garnering active participation of approximately 50 stakeholders; and*
- *awarding approximately \$250,000 annually in Coastal Management Assistance Grants to help coastal communities and organizations develop comprehensive plans, improve access to Lake Erie's shoreline, conduct research and education, and develop outdoor recreation facilities.*

Ohio's National Estuarine Research Reserve Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve

Designated: 1980

Lead Agency: Department of Natural Resources

The Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of a national network of coastal protected areas that conduct science, education, and stewardship. The reserve system is a partnership between NOAA and the states. Old Woman Creek is the only Great Lakes-type, freshwater estuary in the reserve system. The reserve features freshwater marshes, swamp forests, a barrier beach, upland forest, estuarine waters, streams, and nearshore Lake Erie.

RESEARCH: The research program at Old Woman Creek Reserve is directed toward determining the role of estuaries and other wetlands in the Great Lakes ecosystem. A second and equally important responsibility of the program is to develop a database that can be used to evaluate the subtle, long-range changes in the Lake Erie system. Within the Old Woman Creek, watershed agriculture is the major land use; therefore, much of the research undertaken here has focused on the effectiveness of the estuary in lessening storm runoff from agricultural lands. Since dedication of the reserve in 1980, more than 200 scientific publications have resulted from research conducted in the estuary and its watershed. Recent research activities include:

- *determining the impact of invasive algae in no-ballast-on-board ships;*
- *best agricultural management practices study in the Old Woman Creek watershed;*
- *examination of the role of a natural estuary in the breakdown of organic compounds, particularly herbicides; and*
- *tracking the movements of sediments from agricultural lands through the estuary.*

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: Educational activities at Old Woman Creek Reserve focus on increasing public awareness, understanding, and stewardship of coastal wetlands and watersheds, as well as disseminating research findings to resources managers, legislators and other coastal decision makers. Recent efforts have focused on promoting conservation development practices for residential subdivisions and providing nature-based tourism training for local communities. Programs offered include audio-visual presentations, interpretive field trips and guided tours, guest lectures, educator workshops and technical training seminars.